

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

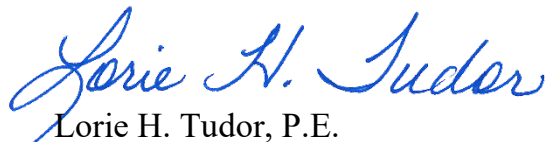
March 10, 2021

**ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR NO. 2021-04**

TO: DIVISION HEADS AND DISTRICT ENGINEERS

We are transmitting herewith for your information and records a copy of the Minutes of the Commission Meeting in Little Rock, AR on February 3, 2021.

After making a careful review of these proceedings, please take appropriate action through designated lines of authority to forward the carrying out of any orders applying to your respective divisions and districts.

  
Lorie H. Tudor, P.E.  
Director

c: Commission

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

February 3, 2021

Following is the record of proceedings of the Arkansas State Highway Commission in Little Rock, Arkansas, February 3, 2021. Members present were:

Robert S. Moore, Jr., Chairman  
Alec Farmer, Vice Chairman  
Philip Taldo, Member  
Keith Gibson, Member  
Marie Holder, Member

2021-001

IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be opened at 10:00 a.m., February 3, 2021.

2021-002

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Committee has awarded purchases on December 18, 2020, and January 6, 2021 in the amount of \$663,050.00 and \$563,459.48, respectively totaling \$1,226,509.48, and supply and service contracts, in accordance with authority previously conveyed, all of which have been documented by official minutes which are of record in the files of the Commission and Equipment and Procurement Division.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the action of the Purchasing Committee be ratified and confirmed in all particulars.

2021-003

WHEREAS, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has billed the Arkansas Department of Transportation for membership dues for the year 2021; and

WHEREAS, this membership is regarded as being highly beneficial to the Department.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the Director is authorized to process payment for AASHTO membership dues for the year 2021 in the amount of \$42,365.76.

2021-004

WHEREAS, the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) is a nationally recognized industry group that was established to help members develop and advocate consensus on legislative and regulatory policy positions; and

WHEREAS, ARTBA delivers exclusive news and information via multiple communication platforms on transportation investment, policy, safety, environmental and other issues; and

WHEREAS, membership in ARTBA provides a valuable benefit to the Department from various services and publications.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to pay the 2021 membership dues in the amount of \$1,000.

2021-005

WHEREAS, a portion of the Department's gasoline tax revenue is set aside for the Marine Fuel Tax Program that is jointly administered by the Arkansas Highway Commission and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Department's Arkansas Marine Use of Motor Fuels study, completed in 1968, was used as a guide in establishing the revenue transfer calculation for the Marine Fuel Tax Program; and

WHEREAS, an update to the previous study is warranted to accurately estimate the current consumption of motor fuel for marine purposes to determine the amount of funding that should be allocated to the Marine Fuel Tax Program.

NOW THEREFORE, in collaboration with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, the Director is authorized to update the Arkansas Marine Use of Motor Fuels study and to recommend any subsequent changes to the Marine Fuel Tax Program that is in the best interest of the State.

2021-006

WHEREAS, the United States Code of Federal Regulation requires that all sampling and testing of materials used in highway construction and maintenance be executed by qualified testing personnel, and that all contractor, vendor, and stated testing used for acceptance decisions shall be performed at qualified laboratories; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Training Transportation Professionals (CTTP) was established at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in cooperation with the Department to provide training and certification of Department and contractor technicians; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to continue this certification program by the CTTTP.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is hereby authorized to renew a three-year agreement to continue training and certification courses as mutually agreed upon by the Department and the CTTTP.

2021-007

WHEREAS, the 91<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of the State of Arkansas enacted Act 705 during the 2017 Regular Session, which established the distribution of highway revenue interest income from the State Highway and Transportation Department Fund to create the Future Transportation Research Fund and the Transportation-Related Research Grant Program (TRRGP); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the TRRGP is to support the study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions to provide resilient and sustainable logistics, processes, materials, and methods to ensure cost-effectiveness and the furtherance of education and economic development concerning all forms of transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Department of Transportation is responsible for administration of the TRRGP.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to advertise for TRRGP applications annually in accordance with the Arkansas Legislative Council's approved promulgated rules.

2021-008

WHEREAS, a vacant piece of property totaling approximately 6.1 acres is located between the District 3 Headquarters property in Hope, Arkansas, and the new Resident Engineer Office 32; and

WHEREAS, the purchase and fencing of this property would increase the secure storage space available for District 3 operations; and

WHEREAS, the addition of this property would allow easier access to the Resident Engineer Office 32 property from the District 3 facilities.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to purchase the property at this site in accordance with state laws and Department's practices and procedures.

2021-009

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission (Commission) acquired property known as the Dermott Rest Area, Tract Nos. 1 and 2, Job No. 2746, from John F. Gibson and Juanita Gibson, husband and wife, by Warrant Deed dated

November 30, 1976, and filed of record on March 9, 1977, as Record Book, Volume I-14, Page 251, in the Circuit Clerk's office for Chicot County, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the property was purchased as a capital asset for the sum of THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND and NO/100 DOLLARS (\$35,000.00) and is not subject to re-acquisition by a prior owner pursuant to Ark. Code Ann § 27-67-322; and

WHEREAS, the District Engineer for District Two has determined that the Dermott Rest Area is not now, nor in the foreseeable future will be, needed for highway purposes. The property is more particularly described as follows:

Part of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 26, Township 13 South, Range 3 West, Chicot County, Arkansas, more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the Southwest Corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 26; thence North 01°01' West along the West line thereof a distance of 362.3 feet to a point on the proposed northwesterly right of way line of the proposed Rest Area; thence North 55° 29' 30" East along said proposed right of way line a distance of 722.5 feet to a point on the existing southwesterly right of way line of U.S. Highway 65; thence South 27° 22' East along said existing right of way line a distance of 800.0 feet to a point on the South line of said Quarter Quarter Section, being also a point on the proposed southerly right of way line of said proposed Rest Area; thence South 86° 21' West along said South line and said proposed right of way line a distance of 958.6 feet to the point of beginning and containing 10.57 acres, more or less.

ALSO:

Part of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 27, Township 13 South, Range 3 West, Chicot County, Arkansas, more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the Southeast Corner of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 27; thence South 88° 07' West along the South line thereof and the proposed southerly right of way line of the proposed Rest Area a distance of 356.7 feet to a point on the existing southeasterly right of way line of U.S. Highway 165; thence in a northeasterly direction along said existing right of way line along a curve left having a radius of 4991.07 feet a distance of 200.0 feet to a point on the proposed northwesterly right of way line of said proposed Rest Area; thence North 55°29' 30" East along said proposed right of way line a distance of 333.2 feet to a point on the East line of said Quarter Quarter Section; thence South 01° 01' East along said East line a distance of 362.3 feet to the point of beginning and containing 1.90 acres, more or less.

Less and except Tract 10 Job 020239

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(Continued)

February 3, 2021

Part of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 26, Township 13 South, Range 3 West, Chicot County, Arkansas, more particularly described as follows:

Starting at the Southeast Corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 26; thence South 89° 09' 27" West along the South line thereof a distance of 360.21 feet to a point on the Southwesterly existing right of way line U.S. Highway 65 for the point of beginning; thence continue South 89° 09' 27" West along the South line of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 26 a distance of 58.68 feet to a point on the Southwesterly proposed right of way line of U.S. Highway 65; thence North 25° 04' 25" West along said proposed right of way line a distance of 775.28 feet to a point; thence North 58° 21' 40" East a distance of 53.50 feet to a point on the Southwesterly existing right of way line of U.S. Highway 65; thence South 25° 05' 58" East along said existing right of way line a distance of 805.48 feet to the point of beginning and containing 0.97 acres more or less.

WHEREAS, C.C. Gibson, III of Monticello, Arkansas has offered to purchase the above-described real property for the sum of FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND and NO/100 (\$45,000.00), representing the current fair market value as opined by three (3) qualified appraisers.

NOW THEREFORE, the above-described property is declared surplus and upon receipt and consideration of the sum of FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND and NO/100 DOLLARS (\$45,000.00) from C.C. Gibson, III of Monticello, Arkansas, the Chairman of the Commission is authorized and directed to execute a Quitclaim Deed conveying the right, title, interest or equity of the above-described property to South Main Acquisition Co., LLC; and hereby releasing the same from the State Highway System, that the Right of Way Division is directed and authorized to record a copy of this Minute Order and the Quitclaim Deed in the records of Chicot County, Arkansas; and, if necessary, the right of way shall be remonumented to reflect the boundaries designated herein. Any Federal-aid funds from this disposal shall be credited to Federal-aid funds or otherwise credited as permitted by federal law.

2021-010

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission (Commission) acquired property known as Tract No. 90XR, Job No. 090373, from Brett Harris and his wife, Candace Harris, by Warranty Deed dated February 3, 2016, and filed of record on February 17, 2016, as Book 2016, Page 8523, in the Circuit Clerk's office for Benton County, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Tract No. 90XR, Job No. 090373, was acquired by the Commission as surplus property for the sum of ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN THOUSAND

EIGHTY AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$117,080.00) and is exempt from reacquisition by the former owners under Ark. Code Ann. § 27-67-322; and

WHEREAS, Brad Dustin Guthrie of Rogers, Arkansas was the highest bidder at auction for Tract No. 90XR for the sum of ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-TWO THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$182,855.00) with a deposit made in the amount of NINE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FORTY-TWO AND 75/100 DOLLARS (\$9,142.75); and

WHEREAS, three Commission appraisers have opined that the current fair market value of Tract No. 90XR is ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$135,000.00); and the District Engineer for District 9 has determined is not now, nor in the foreseeable future will be, needed for highway purposes. The tract to be declared surplus is more particularly described as follows:

Part of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 36, Township 19 North, Range 30 West, Benton County, Arkansas, more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at a point being used as the Section Corner of Sections 25 and 36; thence North 86°36'31" West along the North line of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 36 a distance of 330.42 feet to a point; thence South 02°19'48" West a distance of 24.90 feet to a point on the Westerly right of way line of Relocated Arkansas State Highway 265 as established by AHTD Job 090373 to the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence South 86°19'43" East along said right of way line a distance of 154.62 feet to a point; thence South 09°13'46" West along said right of way line a distance of 214.72 feet to a point; thence South 03°01'25" East along said right of way line a distance of 92.35 feet to a point; thence South 12°12'13" West along said right of way line a distance of 114.17 feet to a point; thence South 47°28'49" West along said right of way line a distance of 166.19 feet to a point on the West line of Tract 90XR as established by AHTD Job 090373; thence North 02°19'48" East a distance of 538.41 feet to the point of beginning and containing 1.47 acres more or less as shown on plans prepared by the AHTD referenced as Job 090373.

Subject to Utility Easement number UD-09-2017-0053 upon sale as indicated on plans.

NOW THEREFORE, the above-described property is declared surplus and upon receipt and consideration of the sum of ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED TWELVE AND 25/100 DOLLARS (\$173,712.25) from Brad Dustin Guthrie of Rogers, Arkansas, the Chairman of the Commission is authorized and directed to execute a Quitclaim Deed conveying the right, title, interest or equity of the above-described property to Mr. Guthrie; and hereby releasing the same from the State Highway System, that the Right of Way

Division is directed and authorized to record a copy of this Minute Order and the Quitclaim Deed in the records of Benton County, Arkansas; and, if necessary, the right of way shall be remonumented to reflect the boundaries designated herein. Any Federal-aid funds from this disposal shall be credited to Federal-aid funds or otherwise credited as permitted by federal law.

2021-011

WHEREAS, IN ST. FRANCIS COUNTY, IN THE TOWN OF COLT, the Board of Commissioners for the Delta Regional Airport have requested that the Department include the access road to Delta Regional Airport, as part of the State Highway System; and

WHEREAS, the facility satisfies the conditions set forth by Act 590 of the 90<sup>th</sup> General Assembly's Regular Session in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Department of Transportation recommends exercising the option to include the principal vehicular road leading to the Airport as a part of the State Highway System.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that upon official notification by the Deputy Director and Chief Engineer, the local road known as Airpark Road, beginning at the junction with Highway 1 and continuing west approximately 0.74 mile to the Delta Regional Airport, is hereby added to the State Highway System as Highway 980, Section 48.

2021-012

WHEREAS, IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, IN THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, Job 040846 is programmed to reconfigure the Highway 62 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard) interchange with Interstate 49; and

WHEREAS, the City has requested modifications to the Department's current design including the construction of a 15<sup>th</sup> Street overpass of Interstate 49; and

WHEREAS, the City's conceptual design and corresponding traffic analysis have been reviewed by the Department; and

WHEREAS, the City's proposal was determined to be operationally similar to the Department's design by providing comparable levels of service; and

WHEREAS, the City has proposed a partnership with the Department to fund the requested modifications.

NOW THEREFORE, upon receipt of an appropriate resolution from the City of Fayetteville, the Director is authorized to enter into any necessary agreements with



the City and to proceed with surveys, plans, and construction of these improvements as funds become available.

2021-013

WHEREAS, IN INDEPENDENCE COUNTY, IN THE VICINITIES OF THE CITIES OF BATESVILLE AND SOUTHSIDE, multiple crashes have occurred at the Highway 167 curve at Ramsey Mountain that have resulted in extended closures of the highway; and

WHEREAS, the shortest detour route is approximately 33 miles long; and

WHEREAS, the County and both Cities have proposed to partner with the Department to construct a second set of travel lanes, protected by a barrier wall from the existing lanes, to be used as a parallel emergency path and opened to traffic when an incident necessitates the closure of the highway; and

WHEREAS, the County and Cities have recently purchased property adjacent to Highway 167 at this location and have agreed to donate any right of way necessary for the improvements; and

WHEREAS, the County has also agreed to participate in the development of the parallel emergency path by donating material and labor; and

WHEREAS, Department staff have reviewed the proposal and have determined that constructing the parallel emergency path would be beneficial to the traveling public.

NOW THEREFORE, the Director is authorized to enter into any necessary agreements with the appropriate local agencies and to proceed with surveys, plans, and construction of these improvements as funds become available.

2021-014

WHEREAS, IN BAXTER COUNTY, IN THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN HOME, the City plans to widen Highway 5, Section 18 between Highway 62 and Highway 62B; and

WHEREAS, the City has requested that the Department expedite replacement of the Hicks Creek bridge located within this segment of Highway 5 with a wider structure; and

WHEREAS, the City has offered to partner with the Department by accepting ownership and responsibility for Highway 5, Section 18S and a portion of Highway 5, Section 18 in exchange for the Department replacing this bridge; and

WHEREAS, this bridge was built in 1929 and widened in 1958 and is nearing the end of its useful life and is a viable candidate for replacement.

NOW THEREFORE, upon receipt of the City's resolution, the Director is authorized to enter into any necessary agreements and to proceed with surveys, plans, and construction of this improvement as funds become available.

FURTHERMORE, upon completion of the bridge replacement and official notification by the Deputy Director and Chief Engineer, the following changes are hereby to be made to the State Highway System, as shown on the attached sketch:

- The portion of Highway 5, Section 18 between Highway 62, Section 10 and Highway 62, Section 11B will be removed from the State Highway System.
- Highway 5, Section 18S will be removed from the State Highway System.

2021-015

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway Commission will accept bids on the following projects in the February 24, 2021 letting; and

JOB NO.	DISTRICT	COUNTY	JOB NAME	ROUTE	APHN
110799	01	CRITTENDEN	LAKE DAVID – MISSISSIPPI CO. LINE (S)	I-55	Y
020701	02	JEFFERSON	COUCH LN. – BURNETT ST. (PINE BLUFF) (S)	79 & 79B	Y
A20007	02	DESHA & DREW	HWY. 278 – HWY. 65 (S)	277	N
030528	03	HEMPSTEAD	LITTLE BODCAU CREEK & RELIEF STRS. & APPRS. (S)	355	N
040765	04	SEBASTIAN	SCOTT CO. LINE – HWY. 10 (S)	71	Y
040791	04	SCOTT	HWY. 270 – HWY. 28 NORTH (SEL. SECS.) (S)	71	Y
040794	04	SEBASTIAN	HWY. 45 – HWY. 64 (SEL. SECS.) (FORT SMITH) (S)	71 & 255	Y
A50002	05	WHITE	LONOKE CO. LINE – HWY. 64 (S)	5	Y
061610	06	LONOKE	I-40 STR. & APPRS. (HWY. 15) (S)	15	Y
A60003	06	LONOKE	PINE TERRACE DR. – LINCOLN ST. (CABOT) (S)	89	Y
070435	07	CALHOUN	CANEY & TAYLOR CREEK STRS. & APPRS. (S)	274	N
A70004	07	CLEVELAND	HWY. 35 – NORTH (S)	63	Y
080596	08	FAULKNER	HWY. 60 – HWY. 89 (S)	365	Y
080598	08	POPE	HWY. 64 – I-40 (S)	124	Y
080599	08	POPE & YELL	HWY. 27 – WHIG CREEK (S)	7	Y
A80003	08	JOHNSON	MOUNT VERNON – OZONE (SEL. SEC.) (S)	21	N
A90006	09	BENTON	HWY. 59 – HWY. 549 (GRAVETTE) (S)	72	Y
100987	10	CRAIGHEAD	HWYS. 49 & 49B (SEL. SECS.) (BROOKLAND) (S)	49 & 49B	Y
A00005	10	GREENE	CARROLL RD. – HWY. 49 (PARAGOULD) (S)	412	Y
012380	01 & 10	VARIOUS	DISTRICTS 1 & 10 RAISED PAVEMENT MARKERS (2021) (S)	VARIOUS	Y
012381	VAR	VARIOUS	DISTRICTS 2, 6 & 7 RAISED PAVEMENT MARKERS (2021) (S)	VARIOUS	Y
C06003	07	BRADLEY	BANKS OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C09005	02	CHICOT	EUDORA OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C11009	10	CLAY	DATTO OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-

C16010	10	CRAIGHEAD	BLACK OAK OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C18014	01	CRITTENDEN	GILMORE OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C20004	07	DALLAS	CARTHAGE OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C27006	02	GRANT	PRATTSVILLE OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C28006	10	GREENE	LAFE OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C29006	03	HEMPSTEAD	FULTON OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C34008	05	JACKSON	DIAZ OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C43008	06	LONOKE	WARD OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C62010	06	SALINE	BAUXITE OVERLAY (S)	---	-
C68006	01	ST. FRANCIS	HUGHES OVERLAY NO. 2 (S)	---	-
C69003	05	STONE	MOUNTAIN VIEW OVERLAY NO. 2 (S)	---	-
C70005	07	UNION	JUNCTION CITY OVERLAY (SEL. SECS.) (S)	---	-
C72011	04	WASHINGTON	WEST FORK OVERLAY NO. 2 (S)	---	-
C72013	04	WASHINGTON	GOSHEN OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C73012	05	WHITE	BALD KNOB OVERLAY NO. 2 (S)	---	-
C73013	05	WHITE	ROSE BUD OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
C74007	01	WOODRUFF	HUNTER OVERLAY & SURFACING (S)	---	-
BR2503	05	FULTON	SPRING RIVER STR. & APPRS. (S)	---	-
SA3348	05	IZARD	IZARD CO. RESEAL (S)	---	-
SA3941	01	LEE	LEE COUNTY SEAL (S)	---	-
SA4139	03	LITTLE RIVER	CO. RD. 21 – EAST (OVERLAY) NO. 2 (S)	---	-
SA5862	08	POPE	HWY. 7 – HWY. 124 (OVERLAY) (S)	---	-
SA6443	09	SEARCY	SEARCY CO. SURFACING NO. 3 (S)	---	-
SA6735	05	SHARP	SHARP CO. RESEAL NO. 3 (S)	---	-
SA6736	05	SHARP	HWY. 354 – ROLLING HILLS RD. (OVERLAY) (S)	---	-
SA6945	05	STONE	STONE CO. OVERLAY & SURFACING NO. 2 (S)	---	-

WHEREAS, a thorough bid review and analysis is undertaken by the Department to ensure that only those projects are awarded which are judged to be in the best interests of the State; and

WHEREAS, the right is retained to reject any or all proposals, to waive technicalities, or to advertise for new proposals, also as judged to be in the best public interests of the State; and

WHEREAS, the Commission desires to expedite work on these important projects; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Amendment 42 of the Arkansas Constitution, Section 6, as well as other laws of this State, the Commission has the authority to delegate certain powers to the Director of Highways and Transportation.

NOW THEREFORE, upon the contractors furnishing the necessary performance and payment bonds and submitting all additional information required for the above mentioned projects, the Director is hereby authorized to enter into contracts and supplemental agreements for any projects deemed to be in the best interests of the State.

FURTHERMORE, the Director is authorized to reject any or all proposals, to waive technicalities, and/or to advertise for new proposals whenever deemed to be in the best interests of the State.

Chairman Moore opened the meeting by welcoming those in attendance in-person, as well as those who were watching online.

### MOTIONS

MOTION Vice Chairman Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Philip Taldo seconded and the motion passed to approve the Minutes from the December 8, 2020 Commission Meeting.

MOTION Vice Chairman Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Philip Taldo seconded and the motion passed to authorize the use of electronic signatures for the February 3, 2021 Minute Orders.

MOTION Vice Chairman Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Philip Taldo seconded and the motion passed to allow the Department to publish the Draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for Federal Fiscal Years 2021-2024 for public comment.

MOTION The Commission approved Minute Order 2020-040 on May 13, 2020, authorizing the Department to request proposals, select a consulting firm and enter into any necessary contracts and agreements with the firm to develop CADD standards and provide training and software support for a period of up to five years. Public advertisement was made on August 23, 2020, in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette and on the Department's website. Commissioner Marie Holder moved, Commissioner Keith Gibson seconded and the motion passed to accept the Staff's recommendation to enter into negotiations to provide consultant services for Computer Aided Design and Drafting (CADD) with the following firm:

The Envision Group, Inc. DBA EnvisionCAD – Madison, Wisconsin

MOTION The Commission approved Minute Order 2020-025 on March 18, 2020 authorizing the Department to advertise for qualified firms to provide on-call landslide repair and stabilization services including rock-fill buttresses, check dams, gabion walls, slide head excavation, and backfilling with lightweight material in order to prevent additional damage to highway pavements, slopes and

drainage structures, to prevent highway embankment material from moving beyond the right of way, and to avoid long term impacts to traffic. Public advertisement was made on August 9, 2020 in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette and on the Department's website. Chairman Alec Farmer moved, Commissioner Philip Taldo seconded and the motion passed to accept the Staff's recommendation to enter into negotiations and provide consultant services for Landslide Repair by Conventional Methods (2021-2023) with the following firms:

Crouse Construction Company – Harrison, Arkansas  
Kesser International, Inc. – North Little Rock, Arkansas  
White River Materials, Inc. – Batesville, Arkansas

### OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Patrick Patton, Chief Fiscal Officer, provided the December 2020 update on State Highway Revenue. Mr. Patton noted that State Highway Revenues to the Department from traditional sources are up a total of 7.9% (\$17.4 million) in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021 compared to SFY 2020. Act 416 Revenue is 4.6% (\$1.3 million) above budget. Revenue from the Natural Gas Severance Tax is lower this year compared to last year. Total revenues available are 5.6% (\$12.3 million) above last year. Actual State Revenue received is 7.8% (\$14.5 million) above projected (budgeted) revenue for this year. Mr. Patton stated that December revenue from the 0.5% General Sales Tax for the Connecting Arkansas Program was 3.51% higher, (\$623,093) than projected by the Department of Finance and Administration (DF&A) for the month. Year to date actual revenue is above projections by 7.77% (\$7,990,980). Since inception, this revenue source is 0.32%, or \$4.4 million, above DF&A's projections.

Kevin Thornton, Assistant Chief of Administration, updated the Commission on the status of Federal Highway and Transit funding issues. Mr. Thornton noted that on December 27, 2020 an agreement was reached for a spending bill that will provide Federal funds until September 30, 2021. Additionally, for the first time, COVID-19 relief funding was provided to State DOTs for highways. The Department will receive \$120 million, while the three Transportation Management Areas in Arkansas will receive \$8.4 million - Central Arkansas will receive \$4.7 million, Northwest Arkansas will receive \$3.2 million and West Memphis will receive \$440,000. These funds do not require a state match and are available until FFY 2024.

Director Tudor updated the Commission on the financial impacts of COVID-19 to the Department. Director Tudor highlighted that total revenues since March are down \$10.4 million and that all traffic levels were back to pre-COVID levels. Director Tudor reported the Department was working on developing a plan for distribution of the COVID vaccine once employees are allowed to take it. Director Tudor also briefed the Commission on the case trends of Department employees.

Director Tudor provided a brief review of the recent Guidehouse Efficiency Review, which began on September 24, 2019. The Arkansas Legislative Council adopted the final report from the Efficiency Review in November 2020. As part of the Final Report, the rules of the Arkansas Legislative Council were amended so that the rules used to implement the recommendations are to be reviewed by the Highway Commission Review and Advisory Subcommittee. These rules are currently being developed with plans to submit to the Commission for approval at the June 16 meeting. Work will continue on the 13 recommendations that were included in the HCRAS final report for the efficiency review. This includes developing a Department wide Correspondence Tracking System, providing increased number of career paths and ladders, and the rollout of the new website.

Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer Randy Ort briefed the Commission on the 93<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the Legislature, which convened on January 11, 2021. Mr. Ort updated the Commission on the progress of bills in the Department's legislative package, as well as other bills of interest to the Department.

Assistant Chief Engineer for Planning, Jared Wiley presented the Draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for Federal Fiscal Years 2021-2024. Mr. Wiley highlighted project information for each of the Departments 10 Districts.

Dave Parker, Public Information Officer, presented the Commission with the Reason Foundation's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Highway Report. The Report measures the condition and cost-effectiveness of state-controlled highways in 13 categories. Mr. Parker noted that ARDOT's overall ranking improved from 32<sup>nd</sup> in 2016 to 9<sup>th</sup> in 2018.

Director Tudor gave a look back at the previous year - progress, accomplishments, significant events, etc. and an overview of what lies ahead for 2021.

Director Tudor presented a list of upcoming meetings and events that the Director and Commission will be attending.

2021-016

IT IS ORDERED that a meeting of the Arkansas State Highway Commission be closed at 11:20 a.m., February 3, 2021.

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true record of the proceedings taken by the Arkansas State Highway Commission at its meeting on February 3, 2021.



Christie Heidelberg  
Commission Secretary